



NEWS

July 24, 2009

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock RD
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

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EXTREME FIRE DANGER ON ODF-PROTECTED LANDS

Very hot weather in southwestern Oregon makes it necessary to raise the fire danger level to Extreme (red) at 1:00 a.m. on Monday, July 27. This affects state, private, county, city and Bureau of Land Management lands that are in Jackson and Josephine counties and are protected by ODF's Southwest Oregon District.

The Industrial Fire Precaution Level will remain at level 2 (two).

Starting Monday, Mowing of dead or dry grass with power-driven equipment will not be allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Previously, mowing was allowed until 1:00 p.m. This restriction does not include the mowing of green lawns, or when equipment is used for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

Chain saws may not be used between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Prior to this fire danger level change, chain saw use was allowed until 1:00 p.m. Chain saw users must have an ax, a shovel and an 8-oz or larger fire extinguisher at the job site, and a fire watch is required for one hour after the saw is shut down.

The cutting, grinding or welding of metal will not be allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. These activities had also been allowed until 1:00 p.m. The work site must be cleared of potentially flammable vegetation and other materials, and a water supply is required at the job site.

Also, all open fires, including charcoal fires, will not be allowed in the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial. Previously, charcoal fires were allowed. Starting Monday, only portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels may be used on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks. These areas must be naturally free of vegetation.

Below is a summary of other fire restrictions that have been in effect since July 14 and will remain in effect:

- Campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds. Portable stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed in other locations.
- Motorized vehicles are allowed only on improved roads.
- Smoking while traveling is allowed only in vehicles on improved roads.
- All debris burning, including debris burned in burn barrels, is prohibited.
- Fireworks use on forestlands is prohibited.
- Electric fence controllers must be approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., or be certified by the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and be installed and used in compliance with the fence controller's instructions for firesafe operation.

In the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Marial:

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in boats on the water, and on sand or gravel bars that lie between water and high water marks that are free of vegetation.
- A shovel and a one-gallon or larger bucket are required of all travelers.

- Fireworks are prohibited

For further information about fire restrictions in all parts of the Wild and Scenic Section of the Rogue River, contact the Smullin Visitor Center located at the Rand National Historic Site at (541) 479-3735 or your local Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest office.

Information about fire season restrictions on ODF-protected lands is available online at www.swofire.oregon.gov and swofire.blogspot.com, and at ODF Southwest Oregon District unit offices:

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd.; (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Dr.; (541) 474-3152

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